

New Legislation Would Be First Salary Reduction for Members in 77 Years

Washington, DC – Tuesday, Congressman Harry Teague continued his fight against Congressional pay raises by becoming a sponsor of the Taking Responsibility for Congressional Pay Act. In an effort to reduce federal spending and grow the nation's economy, the new legislation would cut pay for all Senators and Representatives by five percent beginning January 1, 2011.

"In these tough economic times, it just doesn't make sense for Congress to give itself a pay raise. Many of my constituents in southern New Mexico are finding ways to cut back and Congress needs to do the same," said Harry Teague. "The very first bill I ever sponsored as a Congressman was a bill to eliminate the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress. It was the just the right thing to do. This new Congressional pay-cut bill is also the right thing to do, and it will effectively cut federal spending without impacting important programs."

In addition to the Congressional pay-cut, the bill would also block any automatic increase in congressional salaries for next year. If passed, this legislation would be the first salary reduction for Members of Congress since 1933.

Congressman Teague has continually opposed Congressional pay raises since first taking

office in January 2009. He is an original co-sponsor of a measure to block federal lawmakers from receiving automatic pay increases for the 2011 fiscal year and joined more than 100 co-sponsors on H.R. 156, which blocked the automatic pay increase for FY2010. The measure was eventually adopted by Congressional leaders and the 2010 pay raise was eliminated.

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